

Application Serial No: 10/748,923
In reply to Office Action of 04 April 2006

Attorney Docket No. 82828

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

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At the outset, Applicants are pleased to note that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3, 10, 14 and 20 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 4-9, 11-13, and 15-19 are rejected. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 3 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruth '211 (US Patent 4746211). With regard to Examiner's rejection of claims 1, Applicants have amended claim 1 such that the content of claim 1 now contains the subject matter of claim 3 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in strict compliance with the requirements of the Examiner. Having done this, Applicants have canceled claim 3. Applicants respectfully suggest that, in light of the amendment to claim 1, claim 1 should now be allowed. Applicants also suggest that claims 2-10 are now also allowable through dependency upon claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruth '211 (US Patent 4746211). With regard to Examiner's rejection of claims 11, Applicants have amended claim 11 such that the content of claim 11 now contains the

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subject matter of claim 14 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in strict compliance with the requirements of the Examiner. Having done this, Applicants have canceled claim 14. Applicants respectfully suggest that, in light of the amendment to claim 11, claim 11 should now be allowed. Applicants also suggest that claims 12-20 are now also allowable through dependency upon claim 11.

Applicants respectfully suggest in view of these amendments that all grounds for rejection and objection have been removed by the foregoing response to Examiner's Office Action. Applicants state that no new matter has been added by this amendment, and that all of the remaining claims in the application are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Jean-Paul A. Nasser, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,
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5 July 2006

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